

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is now pending in this application. Claim 7 is herein canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to because it did not reflect the status of the parent application. The drawings were objected to because a feature of claim 7 was not shown. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Kessler, U.S. Patent No. 6,511,051. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kessler taken together with Priestly, U.S. Patent No. 3,466,019.

The specification is herein amended to reflect that the parent application has been abandoned. In addition, the drawing objection and the rejection of claim 7 as obvious are obviated by the cancellation of claim 7.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Kessler. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as the Office has failed to state a prima facie case of anticipation.

Claim 6 is directed to a gas liquid contact plate. The plate comprises a plurality of straight rows of the contact plate, with irregularities formed over both surfaces of the contact plate at equal intervals to each respective row, such that adjacent rows have repeated irregularities opposite to each other. Further, the plate includes openings in a peak and valley portion of the repeated irregularities, with the openings connecting the front surface to the back surface between the adjacent rows. These openings cover an area of 10 to 20% of the contact plate. In the plate, the irregularities comprise continuously smooth sinusoidal wavy irregularities having a substantially opposite phase at the equal intervals.

Figure 2 shows a contact plate of the present application. Several adjacent straight rows are evident. In addition, each of the rows has repeated smooth sinusoidal wavy

irregularities. Each of these rows is arranged such that the irregularities have a substantially opposite phase at equal intervals. Adjacent rows have repeated irregularities opposite to each other. The openings are formed by the gaps between adjacent opposite-phased irregularities, and the opposite-phased irregularities and the opening formed therebetween are at equal intervals to each other.

Kessler discloses a packing column for gas and liquid exchange comprised of a foil-like material with adjacent concave and convex structure elements in an alternating arrangement. Kessler discloses openings in the form of regularly arranged apertures. However, contrary to the present invention, Kessler does not teach that the repeated irregularities comprise continuously smooth sinusoidal wavy irregularities having a **substantially opposite phase** at equal intervals. Nor does Kessler teach that the irregularities in adjacent rows are opposite to each other. Instead, Kessler teaches varying spacing between the centers of the apertures and the distances between adjacent concave and convex structure, necessarily resulting in some overlapping of the adjacent “rows” of concave and convex structure and the related apertures, due to the substantially 90° phase differences between the waves made up of these concave-convex curves. This is evident from Figures 6 and 7 of Kessler.

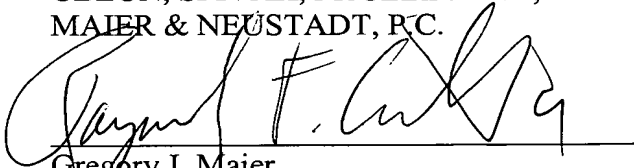
Because Kessler neither discloses nor suggests that the repeated irregularities comprise continuously smooth sinusoidal wavy irregularities having a substantially opposite phase at equal intervals, nor that the irregularities in adjacent rows are opposite to each other, Kessler cannot anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/757,479
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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